

SAINT JOHN'S
EPISTLE
NOVEMBER 2015

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

P.O. BOX 270, BERRYSBURG, PA 17005
The Rev. Thomas G. Bruner, Jr., Pastor

Dear Friends in Jesus,

Since you will hopefully be reading these lines a while before the end of October, I would like to highlight three things that will be important for you to know pertaining to the first and second two Sundays of November.

First, following what has become an annual tradition, on **All Saints Day, November 1**, following worship, we will gather downstairs for a chicken and waffles dinner, with all the trimmings, served by Youth Group. Lots of great food will be the order of the day, and a freewill offering will be received. As our eating concludes, we will spend some time talking together about the "state of the parish" as we approach the end of another Church Year and another calendar year. Folks from the different working groups that have evolved out of our Prayerful Planning Group and I will have updates to share about some important projects, but please bring your ideas and your questions about any aspect of our life as a congregational family!

Second, if you haven't already seen the display on a Sunday morning, I'm happy to report that, by popular demand, new St. John shirts are available for purchase, with two color options, with delivery in plenty of time for Christmas. The new shirts, which again feature the familiar embroidered logo that was first developed for our anniversary year back in 2005 and then modified for our more recent shirts, will be available in 1. the very popular dark red of our most recent shirt order and 2. a new light green. The shirts are again available as polo shirts or t-shirts for all ages, with special sizes available specifically to better fit women. A variety of sample sizes for trying on can be found on the display table downstairs in the Sunday School Room, as well as order forms and envelopes. Please place your order form and check payable to "St. John's Lutheran Church – Anniversary Fund" in an envelope and drop it in the wooden box on the display table or give it to Lois Leshner, Carol Hassinger, or me **no later than All Saints Day, November 1**.

Finally, I wanted to let you know that one of our gifted and committed high school youth, Allison Mace, has volunteered to restart the Young Person's Worship ministry. What Allison would like to do is work with our children who are Age 3 – Grade 2 during worship on the second and fourth Sundays of each month. Please read on in this *Epistle* for an article from Allison giving the details, and note that **November 8 and 22** will be the first Sundays for this reborn ministry, which Allison is calling "Children's Church". I am sure that she would welcome your ideas and, especially, any help that you might wish to give. Please speak with Allison or me to learn more, and spread the word to your children and grandchildren and their friends!

Pastor Tom

BRING YOUR APPETITES AND YOUR IDEAS!

Following what has become an annual tradition, on All Saints Sunday, November 2, following worship, we will gather downstairs for a chicken and waffles dinner, with all the trimmings, served by Youth Group. Lots of great food will be the order of the day, and a freewill offering will be received. As our eating concludes, we will spend a bit of time talking together about the "state of the parish" as we approach the end of another Church Year and another calendar year. Pastor Tom and the members of the three Prayerful Planning Group ministry teams will have some things to share, but please bring your ideas and your questions about any aspect of our life as a congregational family!

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Starting on November 8, I will be starting up a fresh, new children's church. Young persons age 3 to grade 2 will be invited to join me down stairs right after Pastor does his announcements and will be returning to their parents at the beginning of the last hymn. I would love to see all eligible children to join me for games, songs, and snacks. It will be held every 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month.

THANKFUL HEARTS AND VOICES RAISE – LET'S TRY THIS AGAIN!

After being canceled last year due to wintry weather, our annual Berrysburg Area Ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service this year will be a "do-over", planned for the Eve of Thanksgiving Day, Wednesday, November 25, at 7:00 P.M. once again at Peace United Church of Christ in Berrysburg. Pastor Tom is again scheduled to preach, while host Pastor Jeff Wagner and Pastor Frank Egresites lead the worship. Please don't miss this opportunity to worship and give thanks with your Christian neighbors!

News from the Women of the ELCA at St John's

The women of St John's would like to invite our new members to our next meeting on November 8, 2015 at 6:00PM in the Sunday School room. The leaders for that month are Amy Gehring and Rachel Henry.

We would all like to say Thank You to Gail Billow for agreeing to become our new treasurer. Since we had no candidates for the position of secretary we have tabled that until our next meeting.

The Blanket Bunch is now meeting on Wednesday mornings at 9:00 AM. If you are interested in helping please contact President Fay Nichols or Pat Herb.

Ladies please remember if you can help with our Prayer Shawl project please contact Barbara Bullock. She will be more than willing to talk to you. Ladies on the Executive Committee please remember the planning meeting for Thank Offering on October 23, at 6:30PM.

PLEASE HELP

As we near the end of the year, please be sure that, if you are a communing member of St. John, you have turned in at least one communion record card this year. If during the year you have been living and worshiping out of the area, or if you have communed even once at another congregation, please be sure to have that congregation send notice to Pastor Tom. If you are a contributing member of the congregation, please be sure that you have used your offering envelopes at least once this year, so that you are on record as having made a contribution. Please do your part to make sure that our parish records are as accurate as possible!

PASTORAL ACTS

At the Altar

On Saturday, October 10, Pastor Tom presided at the marriage of **James Barder & Carissa Imhof** at the church. On the same day, **Taylor Denlinger & Eileen Parkinson** were joined in marriage at Immanuel Church in Mechanicsburg. We pray God's blessing on these newly married couples, that they may be given the grace and strength to faithfully live out their vows of commitment!

At the Graveside

Funeral worship was held at the church for **Miriam Hoover**, following her death at the Manor at Susquehanna Village on August 13. Worship was held on August 18, with interment in the church cemetery. Because Pastor Tom was away on vacation, Pastor Martine Joseph of Simeon United Lutheran Church in Gratz, who was covering for Pastor Tom, presided at this worship.

Pastor Tom presided at funeral worship for **Mearl Mace**, following his death at his daughter's home in Elizabethtown on September 21. Worship was held at the church on September 25, with cremation following. We pray that God will grant rest and peace to Miriam and Mearl, and the hope and joy of the Resurrection to their families and loved ones!

CONGRATULATIONS!

To **Jeff & Tammie Roadcap** on the safe and healthy birth of **Derrick Christopher** on Sunday, August 9. Derrick weighed in at 9 pounds and 12 ounces and was 22 inches long. Congratulations, too, to proud older brothers Bryce, Aidan, and Cole!

OUR FAITH ACTIVE IN OUR FINANCIAL GIVING – AS OF SEPTEMBER 30

In recent years, Congregational Council has asked that we all periodically receive an update in the *Epistle* about how we are doing in meeting our ministry commitments adopted in our annual budget.

Regarding our Current Fund... (The Current Fund is the fund from which most day-to-day bills get paid, much like your home's checking account.) With 39 of 52 Sundays behind us as of September 30, to be right on **budget**, we would have received and spent \$105,942 out of our total 2015 budget of \$141,256. We have **actually received** \$102,936 in offerings and other income, placing us behind budget by \$3,006. (This result makes this the 4th-best year of the past 15 years as of September 30, and is especially nice to note following our worst-ever results back as of the end of February!) Our **expenses** as of the end of September total \$97,280 and are \$8,662 under budget (reflecting, among other things, that, while there was lots of heating required this past winter, each gallon of heating oil was less expensive than expected). Since we have received more than we have spent, we are running a best ever **surplus** of \$5,656 as of September 30. The bottom line is that our ministry here together continues to be very blessed, especially in light of the continued struggles of our economy!

As to our benevolence offerings which we share with our Lower Susquehanna Synod and our Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, to be exactly on **budget** as of September 30, we would have received and forwarded \$9,000 out of our total 2015 commitment of \$12,000. As of September 30, we have **actually** received and shared a total of \$10,596, meaning that we are **ahead of** our commitment by \$1,596.

Thank you for your partnership in the ministry of St. John, and for your financial stewardship. Again, please watch for future updates every few months, and please feel free at any time to ask questions of or share ideas with Pastor Tom or any member of Council!



SUNDAY SERVICE FOR NOVEMBER 2015

Altar Guild for Month of November Carol & Dale Hassinger

Lector for Month of November James Bullock

Ushers for the Month of November are (L) Sandra Shade (E Cheryl Shadle, Dan and Angela Maurer

NOVEMBER 1, 2015

All Saints Sunday	Sunday School Superintendent-	Ken Koller
Holy Communion	Sunday School Pianist-	Louise Baumgardner
Congregational Dinner	Greeters-	Tim & Lori Motter
	Acolytes-	Aidan Roadcap & R.J. Henry

NOVEMBER 8, 2015

The 24 th Sunday after Pentecost	Sunday School Superintendent-	Roy Henry
	Sunday School Pianist-	Sandy Paul
	Greeters-	Gary & Betty Leitzel
	Acolytes-	Kinsley Schreffler & Gracie Gehring

NOVEMBER 15, 2015

25th Sunday after Pentecost	Sunday School Superintendent-	Larry Gessner
	Sunday School Pianist-	Carol Hubler
	Greeters -	The Eric Mattern Family
	Acolytes-	Eli Conte & Gabe Gehring

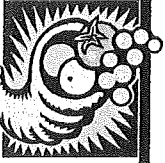
NOVEMBER 22, 2015

Christ the King	Sunday School Superintendent-	Lynn Henninger
Women's Thankoffering Worship	Sunday School Pianist-	Lois Watson
	Greeters-	Arlene Donnelly
	Acolytes-	Lillian Boyer & Kelsey Henninger

NOVEMBER 29, 2015

1 st Sunday in Advent	Sunday School Superintendent-	Jeff Lehman
	Sunday School Pianist-	Judy Ferree
	Greeters-	Joe & Arlene Doyle
	Acolytes-	Owen Mattern & Cameron Thompson

November 2015



ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 All Saints' Sunday 9:00 Sunday School 9:00 Confirmation Class 10:15 Liturgy of Holy Communion, 11:30 Cong. Dinner served by Youth Group with Congregational Discussion and Sharing to follow Daylight Saving Time Ends	2 7:30 Dartball Match— St. Christopher at St. John	3 10:00 Pastor Tom at Conf. Pastors Meeting 7:30 Sr. Choir Rehearsal Election Day	4 9:00 Blanket Making for LWR 6:30—8:00 Midweek Bible Study	5	6 Pastor Tom in Harrisburg for Continuing Education Event 7:30-5:00	7 Pastor Tom's Day Off
8 The 24th Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 Sunday School 9:00 Confirmation Class 10:15 Liturgy of the Word, with Children's Church 2:00 Book Discussion Group 4:00 Congregational Council Meeting 6:00 Women's Group Meeting	9 7:30 Dartball Match— St. John's at Valleys Church Halifax Day of Prayer for Peace <i>with Justice,</i> Beginning in the Middle East	10 10:00 Pastor Tom at Conf. Pastors Meeting 6:15 Sunday School Teachers & Officers Mtg. 7:30 Sr. Choir Rehearsal Martin Luther's Birthday (1483)	11 9:00 Blanket Making for LWR 6:30—8:00 Midweek Bible Study's Veteran's Day	12	13	14 7:00-9:00 Men's Prayer Group Meets at Church — Please contact Ray Matter for more information Pastor Tom's Day Off
15 The 25th Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 Sunday School 9:00 Confirmation Class 10:15 Liturgy of the Word Youth Group "Fun Night" TBD Deadline to Submit Items for December/January "St. John's Epistle"	16 7:00 Upper Dauphin Conf. Cabinet at Zion Lutheran, Erdman 7:30 Dartball Match— Faith United Methodist at St. John	17 6:15 Worship & Music Comm. Mtg. 7:30 Sr. Choir Rehearsal	18 9:00 Blanket Making for LWR 6:30—8:00 Midweek Bible Study	19	20	21 Pastor Tom's Day Off
22 Christ the King 9:00 Sunday School 9:00 Confirmation Class 10:15 Annual Thankoffering Worship, Led by the Women of St. John Including Children's Church	23 7:30 Dartball Match— Lykens United Methodist at St. John's	24 10:00 Pastor Tom at Conf. Pastors Mtg 6:15 Property Comm. Mtg. 7:30 Senior Choir Rehearsal	25 9:00 Blanket Making for LWR 7:00 Berryburg Area Thanksgiving Worship at Peace United Church of Christ, Berryburg— Pastor Tom Speaking	26 Pastor Tom Taking Monthly Extra Day Off Thanksgiving Day	27	28 Pastor Tom's Day Off
29 The 1st Sunday of Advent 9:00 Sunday School 9:00 Confirmation Class 10:15 Liturgy of the Word Steeple Stars are Lighted	30 Andrew, Apostle Pastor Tom Taking Vacation Day					

St John Evangelical Lutheran Church
Congregational Council Minutes
September 13, 2015

The council meeting was called to order by President, Roy Henry

Pastor Tom opened the meeting with devotions and a prayer.

Present: Roy Henry, Lorraine Henniger, Jeff Lehman, Gail Billow, Ken Koller, Sandra Lamenza, Cheryl Shadle, Joseph Doyle, Tamara Spicher and Pastor Tom Bruner

Excused Absence: Dale Hassinger

Absent: Sandra Shade

Minutes: Motion by Cheryl Shadle and seconded by Lorraine Henniger to approve the minutes from the July 12, 2015 meeting. Motion approved unanimously.

Reception of Petitions and Communications:

Special Benevolence: Motion made by Sandra Lamenza and seconded by Lorraine Henniger to approve the changes to the 2016 monthly benevolence programs. Motion approved unanimously.

Celebrate: \$22

"Tree For Hope": \$50

"Always Being Made New": \$50

Elevator: The State Department of Labor and Industry requires a more extensive elevator inspection every five years. The inspection was done and the elevator met the requirements.

Bequest: We received a letter from Kerwin and Kerwin stating that the estate of Miriam Hoover bequeathed \$1000 to St John Church and \$1000 to the Cemetery Association. Pastor will confirm that the money for the church can be designated to the Pavilion Project.

Thank You: We received a thank you letter from the Dauphin County Library for our donation.

Elizabethville Bicentennial: We received a letter requesting participation in the bicentennial parade on August 19, 2017. The council felt it was worth considering reactivating the model of the church that had been used in past parades.

Insurance: Our insurance company, Deibler, Straub and Troutman, proposed a 3% property value increase. Motion made by Ken Koller and seconded by Tamara Spicher to accept their recommendation. Motion passed unanimously.

Pastor's Report: Motion made by Sandra Lamenza and seconded by Cheryl Shadle to accept the pastor's report. Motion approved unanimously. Pastor requested vacation time from Monday, December 28 through Tuesday January 5. Motion made by Tamara Spicher and seconded by Ken Koller to approve the vacation request. Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurers' Reports: Motion made by Lorraine Henninger and seconded by Gail Billow to accept the treasurer reports. Motion approved unanimously.

Reports of Standing Committees:

Church Property: No report

Finance: Scheduled meeting for October 12 to prepare the 2016 budget.

Worship and Music: Recommended the summer worship schedule to run from Memorial Day to Labor Day and outside worship to be held on May 29, June 19, July 3, July 24, August 7, and September 4. Motion made by Sandra Lamenza and seconded by Ken Koller to approve the recommendations. Motion passed unanimously.

Christian Education: Schedule for the year and the realignment of classes has been completed.

Stewardship: No report

Youth Ministry: Have scheduled a kick-off party

Mutual Ministry: No report

Executive: No report.

Nominating: No report

History: No report

Green Team: No report

Other Reports:

Prayerful Planning Group: Council discussed the proposed Child Protection Policy. Motion made by Sandra Lamenza and seconded by Ken Koller to approve the policy. Motion passed unanimously. The proposed Youth Ministry Coordinator position will be discussed at the October 18 meeting.


Thrivent Investments: Larry Gessner reported on some investment changes he made that had been approved at a previous meeting.

Next Council Meeting: October 18, 2015 at 4:00PM

Adjournment: Motion by Cheryl Shadle and seconded by Gail Billow to adjourn the meeting. Motion approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Lamenza



Secretary

Treasurer Reports**July 2015**

	Prior Balance	Receipts	Expenses	EOM
Current	9,898.60	10,085.89	10,044.04	9,940.45
Benevolence	54.58	1386.54	1386.50	54.62
Memorial	45,202.51	278.45		45,480.96
Improvement	5710.91	264.00		5974.91
Bicent Ck Acct	32,883.17	1.90	2046.03	30,839.04
Bicent Svngs	5,300.91			5,300.91
Flower	355.71	32.00	35.00	352.71

Treasurer Reports**August 2015**

	Prior Balance	Receipts	Expenses	EOM
Current	9,940.45	17,960.54	13,574.10	14,326.89
Benevolence	54.62	4693.99	4693.90	54.71
Memorial	45,480.96	13.51	85.00	45,409.47
Improvement	5974.91	2967.04	2712.32	6229.63
Bicent Ck Acct	30,839.04	1.82	600.00	30,240.86
Bicent Svngs	5,300.91			5,300.91
Flower	352.71	113.00	165.00	300.71

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

PARISH STAFF

The Rev. Thomas Bruner, Jr., Pastor stjohnhillchurch@frontier.com.....362-9519 (O)
 362-7895 (H)

Tammy & Bill Becker, Sextons (no email).....319-0703

Judith Ferree, Organist jjferree@epix.net.....362-4228

Sandra Paul, Secretary rbpaul@epix.net362-4117

Roy Henry, Council President webmaster@randrhenry.com..... 579-0244

Lorraine Henninger, Prayer Chain Coordinator (no email)..... 362-9108

Find Us on Facebook

PARISH WEBSITE: www.stjohnhillchurch.org

Physical Address (for deliveries): 215 St. John Road Elizabethville, PA 17023

Mailing Address: P. O. Box 270 Berrysburg, PA 17005

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Pastor's Office Hours:

Monday	8:00 A.M. – 9:30 A.M.
Tuesday	8:00 A.M. – 9:30 A.M.
Wednesday	8:00 A.M. – 12:00 Noon
Thursday	8:00 A.M. – 12:00 Noon
Friday	8:00 A.M. – 9:30 A.M.

(Other times by appointment)

OUR MISSION

St. John congregation, responding to the call of the Holy Spirit through the Gospel, unites together to preach and teach the Word, administer the sacraments, and carry out God's mission. With God's guidance and grace, we strive to boldly proclaim by word and action the reconciling Gospel of Jesus: Working together for justice and peace, and caring for those in need in our community and world. We invite everyone to join us wherever you are on your faith journey.

